

Non-Enforcement of Taxi Law Causes Many Tragedies in N. Y.

Cold Figures of Dead and Maimed in Street Accidents Don't Begin to Reveal the Pitiful Tales.

By Sophie Irene Loeb.

The new law requiring the bonding of taxicab chauffeurs against accidents and deaths remains unenforced.

The officials charged with the enforcement of this law have "passed the buck" one to the other. But in the meantime the toll taken in human lives and in maimed and crippled goes on.

Since the law went into effect July 1, in a period of only three months, death and casualty lists among children alone chronicle eleven killed, forty-three seriously injured, 127 slightly injured and sixty-six hurt but unknown.

In a period of eight months in the Traffic Court, 40 per cent. of the number of taxicabs running in the city have been in that court for violations, the majority of them for speeding, and against this but 9 per cent. of all the other vehicles running in the city appeared in this court.

According to statistics from the Police Department, taxicabs have killed fifty-two people and injured 1,686 since the first of the year making a total of 1,738, or a ratio of one to every ten taxicabs that run on the streets, killing or injuring somebody, as against one in every twenty of all the other vehicles.

Also it is estimated from 75 to 95 per cent. of all the vehicles running in the city, exclusive of taxicabs, are insured, while less than 10 per cent. of taxicabs are insured.

These are only figures, but what are the tragedies that are being enacted every day in the homes of those directly affected? Here are some that tell stories of sorrow that can better be imagined than described:

On the afternoon of Sept. 14, 1922, between 5 and 8 o'clock, Anelke Lakowsky, three years old, was on the street in front of her home with her father waiting for the mother and another child to come downstairs. Anelke for a moment slipped away from her father's hand and had hardly started to cross the street when a Yellow and Black taxi ran down the child. She was taken to Gouverneur Hospital and died immediately. The chauffeur was taken to a police court but was let out on bail.

The street was a one-way street going down, but the driver went the wrong way. Mr. and Mrs. Nolte came from Germany about forty years ago. Mr. Nolte is about seventy years old. He is a night watchman and in working for a contractor. Mrs. Nolte is a janitress. The home is extremely poor and George was the only child.

On the evening of July 7, 1922, at about 6.30, while returning from a "movie," he was run down by a taxi. He had been trying to avoid another vehicle and stood behind an "L" pillar. The chauffeur was arrested, but was let out on \$2,000 bail. The car was not insured and no one is liable. On Sept. 15, about 3 P. M., Annie Itakowitz and her family were getting ready to go visiting. The parents were in the house and the child had gone downstairs ahead of time. She wanted to buy something in the shop across from her home and had almost reached the other sidewalk when a taxi ran the girl down.

The chauffeur confessed that he was guilty, and that he had lost control and that the brakes were out of order.

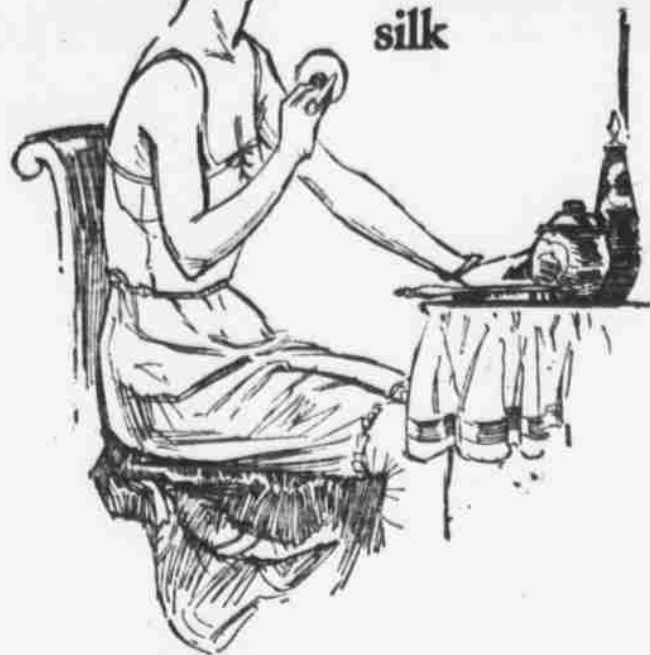
The child was taken to St. Mark's Clinic but died. There are two surviving children, five and seven years old. The mother has been very ill since the accident.

This taxicab belonged to the Yale Taxi Corporation, but this is an association with members who use the name of the Yale Taxi and pay for the privilege of same. But the Yale Taxi Corporation is not liable for its members. Owing to the laxity of the enforcement of the law, it has not yet been ascertained whether this car is liable or not.

On Aug. 20, 1922, about 8 P. M., Henry Rothstein, seven years old, came out of his home to cross the street to buy something in a store when a taxi ran the boy down.

The driver came down the left side of the street and did not blow his horn. Particulars were given to the parents by the pedestrians.

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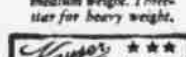
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